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SUGGESTIONS TO LEADERS OF CLASSES USING THE ORIGIN AND TEACHING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS¹

The reader will be greatly tempted, in connection with the work of the present month, to dwell too fully upon the *theology* of Paul, and to lose sight of the rapid succession of *events* which made Paul's life at this time perilous, and intensely interesting to young people. As a matter of fact, the theology of Paul, as represented by his letter to the Romans, can be reduced to a few sentences which have a clear message to Christianity, although it was necessary that Paul state them in many forms and with great elaborateness to the Romans, in order to insure their understanding of his view. To the present-day student the focus of interest is the man Paul, earnestly seeking to establish a unified Christianity, caught in a trap by his enemies, alert but defeated, using every means to escape, but never losing sight of his work under the most adverse conditions. Concerning the theology of Paul, however, we should not fail to raise the question: Is it likely that a theology formulated by a man of Paul's strength of character, and clearness of judgment, and religious experience should not contain vital principles for our faith today?

Program I

Leader: A sketch of Rome in Paul's day.

Members: (1) The group of Christians to whom Paul's letter to the Romans is addressed, and his reasons for writing the letter. (2) The letter to the Romans: (a) the "heart" of its doctrines (3:1-30); (b) a Psalm of triumph (8:31-38); (c) Christian duty (chaps. 12 and 13). (3) Brief readings from *Quo Vadis*, which picture conditions

among the Christians in Rome. (4) Imaginary descriptions of the receipt and reading of Paul's letter by the Christians in Rome.

Subjects for discussion: (1) Does Paul's religion of faith v. law have a counterpart in essence in our modern problem of religion v. morality? or (2) If so, in what direction would Paul's decision lie?

Program II

Leader: A map study of Paul's journeys up to this point.

Members: (1) Stories from the journey of Paul to Jerusalem (a) in Troas; (b) at Miletus; (c) at Caesarea. (2) Paul's visit to Jerusalem and its termination in the Caesarean prison. (3) Paul's struggles for liberty ending in an expedition in Rome. (4) Imprisonment in Rome and ministry to the Romans. (5) Indications contained in Paul's letter to the Philippians (a) as to the details of his life in Rome; (b) as to his attitude toward those who had accepted his teaching; (c) as to his attitude toward his own future; (d) as to his courage and the joyous character of his faith.

Subjects for discussion: What religious "habits" helped Paul to endure his hardships with such hope and joyous expectation? or (2) Is theology important? Does it change? If so, why?

REFERENCE READING

Gilbert, *Christianity in the Apostolic Age*, §§ 118-47; Fisher, *Beginnings of Christianity*, pp. 40-220; Conybeare and Howson, *Life and Epistles of St. Paul*, chaps. xix-xxvi; Weizsäcker, *The Apostolic Age of the Christian Church*, chaps. iii, iv; McGiffert, *The Apostolic Age*, pp. 324-98; Gilbert, *Students' Life of Paul*, chaps. xi-xiv;

¹ The suggestions relate to the third month's work, the student's material for which appeared in the *Biblical World* for November and may be obtained in pamphlet reprints for use with classes. Address: THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, The University of Chicago.

Ramsay, *Pictures of the Apostolic Church*, pp. 301-64; Johnston, *St. Paul and His Mission to the Roman Empire*, chaps. ix-xiii; Robertson, *Epochs in the Life of Paul*, pp. 205-84; Bacon, *Making of the New Testament*, pp. 80-103; Peake, *Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 39-47, 57-59; Bacon, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 98-126; Julicher, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp. 103-25; Moffatt, *An Introduction to the New Testament*, pp.

131-76; Ramsay, *St. Paul, the Traveler and the Roman Citizen*, pp. 283-360; Burton, *Handbook on the Life of Paul*, pp. 71-82; Burton, *Records and Letters of the Apostolic Age*, §§ 52-68; other lives of Paul by Stalker, Farrar, and Bird.

See Hastings' *Bible Dictionary*, 4-volume or 1-volume edition, for articles on Macedonia, Illyricum, Roman, Roman Empire, Epistle to the Romans, Caesarea, Philippi, Epistle to the Philippians, Paul the Apostle.

THE STUDY OF MISSIONS

There is a vast amount of time and energy spent in the study of the spread of Christianity in foreign lands, which gives but a smattering of information. Thousands of men and women are sincerely interested in the question of foreign missions. Some of them are in training schools preparing for work in the foreign mission field. A vast majority are interested in missionary work as supporters. Many people from both these classes would like to follow a thorough and comprehensive reading course on missions. Such a course was published last year in the BIBLICAL WORLD as one of the Professional Reading Courses of the Institute. The course comprised about twenty volumes of the most fascinating literature dealing with India, China, Japan, Africa, and Mohammedan countries, all these books being thoroughly discussed by Professor Ernest D. Burton, who had recently returned from a tour of the educational institutions of the Orient, and Professor A. K. Parker, who was the instructor in missions in the University of Chicago.

This material has now been reprinted in a pamphlet, and the course has been placed upon the basis of the INSTITUTE Outline Courses, giving anyone the possibility of securing this pamphlet by paying a membership fee of \$0.50. By this arrangement, the course becomes accessible to all who may be interested in it. Furthermore the INSTITUTE is circulating libraries which contain full sets of the books in the course. A fee of \$3.50 secures to any person or group of persons who wish to use this course the receipt of the full library, express paid to any part of the United States or Canada. The books may be retained four months. At the end of that period they may be returned or purchased at a discount if desired for a permanent library. This is an excellent opportunity for missionary societies to equip themselves with a library which would be standard for some time to come, and at the same time to read the books under the guidance of the INSTITUTE course. The number of libraries is limited and applications are filled in the order of their receipt. Address THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE, THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, ILL.